

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 15, 20, 22, 23, 25-28, 32, 33 and 42-50 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 10, 14, 20 and 32 being the independent claims. The Applicants note that the amendments to the claims have been made to expedite prosecution. The Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejections and reserve the right to pursue original claims, cancelled claims, and new claims in a continuation application.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to in the Office Action because the band portion with the first passageway and the second passageway as set forth in claim 21 is alleged to be not shown in the drawings. Applicants have canceled claim 21 to expedite prosecution, thereby rendering the objection moot. Applicants submit that the objection to the drawings has been overcome and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims Rejections

Claims 14-17, 20, 22-28, 30, 31 and 34-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 5,835,609 to Le Gette et al. ("*Le Gette*"). Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Le Gette* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,697 to Cheng ("*Cheng*").

Independent Claim 14

Regarding independent claim 14, Applicants have amended claim 14 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 24, which was indicated as allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 (as amended) is allowable and that dependent claims 15, 23, 25 and 26 are allowable at least based on their dependency upon independent claim 14.

Independent Claim 20

Regarding independent claim 20, Applicants have amended claim 20 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 29, which was indicated as allowable. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 20 (as amended) is allowable and that dependent claims 22, 27 and 28 are allowable at least based on their dependency upon independent claim 20.

Independent Claims 16, 30 and 34

Regarding independent claims 16, 30 and 34, Applicants have canceled these claims and the claims depending therefrom, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 24, 29, 32 and 33.

New Claims

The Applicants have added new dependent claims 42-50, which correspond to originally presented dependent claims 3-9, 12 and 13.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that such objections and rejections be withdrawn. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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180s, Inc.
701 E. Pratt Street, Suite 180
Baltimore, MD 21202-3101
Tel: (410) 534-6320
Fax: (410) 534-6321

Respectfully submitted,
180S, INC.
By: Thomas W. Lynch
Thomas W. Lynch
Reg. No. 42,820